

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 474

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Rachel Lytle upon her receipt of the 2017 Outstanding New Biology Teacher Achievement Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those outstanding professionals who devote themselves to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable educator is Rachel Lytle, an Advanced Placement Biology teacher at Brentwood High School who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lytle was recently named the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding New Biology Teacher Achievement Award, a prestigious accolade conferred by Pearson, the Neil A. Campbell Educational Trust, and National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT); the award recognizes outstanding biology and life science teaching in grades 7-12 by a new biology or life science instructor; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Lytle received her Bachelor of Science degree and her teacher certification training from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), thereafter pursuing graduate study at the institution and ultimately earning her master's degree in biology with a research interest in science education; and

WHEREAS, her academic achievements at MTSU were recognized with a number of awards and scholarships, including NABT's Graduate Student Travel Award in 2014; and

WHEREAS, as a classroom teacher, Rachel Lytle utilizes real-world, timely resources to help make content interesting and relevant; she incorporates TED Talks and news articles,

frequently collaborates with colleagues, and pays special attention to the design of her lab experiences; and

WHEREAS, as Ms. Lytle's students focus on a single unknown variable for multiple weeks, they become more methodical, honing their skills as technicians and researchers; she has also coordinated a partnership with MTSU so her students can see firsthand how their experiences may be applied in a university setting; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Lytle recognizes that improving student attitudes toward science is a community effort; she currently leads her school's professional learning community and is part of a district-based "science think tank" whose mission is to increase enrollment in science classes. She shares her experiences and learns from others by being involved with local teachers and at national organizations such as NABT; and

WHEREAS, continually striving to improve her methods and student outcomes, Ms. Lytle not only inspires young people to pursue careers in the sciences, she also inspires her colleagues, reigniting their passion to teach the sciences to their students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lytle truly epitomizes the dedicated school teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Rachel Lytle upon her receipt of the 2017 Outstanding New Biology Teacher Achievement Award, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.